

REMARKS

By way of the present response, claims 1-27 are amended and new claims 28-30 are added. Claims 1-30 currently are pending. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

The office action includes a single rejection under 35 U.S.C 102(e) of all pending claims 1-27, as being anticipated by Johanson et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0018744A1). This rejection respectfully traversed, insofar as the Office may consider it to apply to the presently amended claims.

The present invention is directed to a system and process for providing site specific geographic location information about a device existing in an area. For example, starting at paragraph 0006 of the specification, Applicant describes an exemplary system and method that identifies site specific geographical location information of one or more devices, such as network resources or pieces office equipment (e.g., a printer or projector), which can be located in any one of a number of sites within an area (e.g., a building). For instance, Figure 1 shows an exemplary system 10, which includes a printer 16 and a projector 18. The printer 16 is located in a room 26 on a second floor of a building 20, and the projector 18 is located in a room 32 on a third floor of the building 20. With reference to paragraphs 00018 and 00021, each of the printer and projector devices includes a positioning device (e.g., a GPS receiver) that provides coordinate information of the device's location. In the Figure 1 example, a management system 12 obtains the coordinate information from the devices and accesses site specific geographic location information of the building 20 stored in memory, to identify site specific geographic location information of the site where the devices are actually located (e.g., see paragraphs 00027 and 00028). After converting coordinates transmitted from a device to associated site specific information, the exemplary management system 12 outputs the site specific geographical location information of the identified site, for example, for display on a display (e.g., display 40 or 52) or for storage in memory (e.g., memory 36 or 48) (e.g., see paragraph 00031).

Amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19 broadly encompass such a system and process. For instance, claim 1 recites that a system includes memory storing site specific

geographical location information of a plurality of sites in an area, a receiving system that receives coordinate information from a device, an identification system that identifies which one of the sites in the area that the device is located based on a predetermined association of the received coordinate information and the stored site specific geographical location information, and an output system that outputs the site specific geographical location information of the identified site. Similar distinctions are set forth in the context of process steps in independent claims 10 and 19. It is respectfully submitted that the Johanson et al. publication cited in the office action does not describe the presently claimed combinations of features.

In setting forth the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 19, the Office asserts that the Johanson et al. publication teaches a storage system (i.e., item 16 in Figure 1) that stores a plurality of sites for an area and an identification system that identifies one of the plurality of sites based on the received coordinates information (see the office action, the last line of page 2 to line 2 of page 3). However, Johanson et al. is silent with regard to stored “site specific geographical location information” as claimed. Consequently, Johanson et al. also does not describe identifying which one of the sites of the area that the device is located based on a predetermined association of the received coordinate information and the stored site specific geographical location information, as claimed.

In contrast, paragraphs 0019 and 0020 of the Johanson et al. publication describe a system including a first electronic device having a GPS receiver and a microprocessor. The microprocessor stores GPS location information and device type information contained in received response signals, which were transmitted from one or more other nearby electronic devices. From information in the received response signals, and a GPS location provided by the GPS receiver, the first device determines a location of each of the other electronic devices relative to the first electronic device and displays them as icons according to their device types. Additionally, the displayed icons are arranged according to their locations and altitudes relative to the first electronic device. Thus, the system of Johanson et al. appears to map a GPS location of other electronic devices to another coordinate system relative the first electronic device. However, such a display does not provide any site specific geographical location information of other electronic devices. That is, the system and methods described in the Johanson et al. publication provide no specific

geographical information about the actual sites in which each of the other electronic devices reside. As a result, there is no easy and practical way to locate the other electronic devices without this site specific geographic location information. This significant difference between Johanson et al. and the present invention is brought out in each of amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

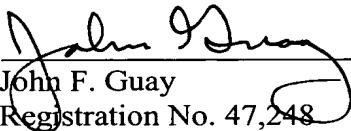
Furthermore, the present invention's provision of actual geographical location information of a site in which a device is situated facilitates a number of advantageous features not provided by the systems and methods of the Johanson et al. publication. For example, an operator can quickly and easily identify the actual geographic location, e.g. floor and room, of a particular device, for example a piece of office equipment or a particular medical device, within a building. Additionally, the present invention facilitates quick and accurate identification and recording of a physical location of a device, such as devices distributed in a network environment. A physical location of such devices (e.g., scanners and printers) is not necessarily fixed. When a device is moved within, or added to a network, the present invention can accurately and automatically determine the physical (geographical) location of the device, with or without human interaction, to make the resources available to a network user. For these additional reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Johanson et al. document would not have suggested the present invention as set forth in amended claims 1, 10 and 19.

The remaining rejected claims 2-9, 11-18 and 20-27, and new claims 28-30, depend from one of independent claims 1, 10 and 19, and are therefore allowable at least for the above reasons. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims also define combinations of features setting forth additional, separately patentable subject matter not described in the Johanson et al. document.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and prompt notification of the same is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

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